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LIGHTNING CAUSE OF FOREST FIRES

LESS DANGER THAN DENSE

In Ancient Times When Woods Less Open and Damper the Flames Gained Less Headway

Lightning, unaccompanied by rain, has been the chief cause of disastrous forest fires in the far west this summer, according to the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. As a result many persons have asked why the forests were not entirely destroyed in prehistoric times. Lightning always has been an important cause of forest fires, particularly in the west, where it starts from a quarter to a half of the fires. For the country as a whole, however, it causes only about 10 per cent of the fires. Civilized man has introduced two additional factors that have enormously increased the destruction caused by forest fires — carelessness and forest denudation. Lumbering has denuded large areas and left the ground covered with rejected parts of trees. With the admission of sunlight, these cut-over areas grow up densely to grass, weeds, and briars, which when dried, are easily ignited. Such fires may sweep into merchantable timber and destroy it. Fires in dense green forests usually leave many living trees.

Remedy Suggested
 When better handling of forests becomes common practice they will be only partly opened up to sun and wind. This will probably mean either removing only the larger trees, leaving the rest, or where clear cutting is advisable clearing small areas with intervening stretches of green forest.

The virgin forests before the white man came were mostly dense, dark, damp, and cool. In dry seasons lightning (and perhaps in some cases Indians) set fire to these forests, and there are evidences of extensive prehistoric burns in some parts of the country. Nevertheless, as a whole those dark, humid forests were much less inflammable than our modern denuded or thinned-out forests. The fact that the primeval forests persisted for so many ages and were so extensive and almost unbroken proves that lightning fires, numerous as they must have been, probably burned over only an insignificant part of the total forest area.

Latest scientific figures show that light travels 186,173 miles a second which is nearly twenty miles a second slower than the original calculations. But still that seemed to be fast enough.

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FORT SHERIDAN FIVE DEFEAT LITHUANIANS

With big, husky guards hanging on their every moment, forwards for the Knights of Lithuania of Waukegan were held down to two baskets apiece last Friday night in their game against Fort Sheridan at the Barwell gym, and the soldiers won a hard fought 22 to 17 victory.

Anderson, soldier forward, was the scoring sensation of the evening, caging 4 baskets, 3 free tosses to help his team win a North Shore League game. Most of the rest of the soldier scoring was done by their two running guards, Launby and Walters.

Poor passing on the part of the Lithuanians didn't help their chances any, especially in the second half when, after the soldiers had led 12 to 11 at the rest period, they almost doubled their score while the losers were help to six points.

WOULD BAR FILMS MADE BY CHAPLIN

Petitions asking that the North Chicago city council pass a measure forbidding the showing of film productions starring Charles Spencer Chaplin, famous comedian, were circulated in that city last week by well known North Chicago residents.

The action to bar Chaplin films from being shown there is a result of the filing of divorce proceedings against the film comedian in which sensational charges are made against him by his young wife, Lita Grey Chaplin.

START EXCAVATION FOR NEW TRIER GYM

Extensive Improvement to Cost \$600,000 Is Begun; Will Be 270 Feet Long

Excavation for New Trier high school's new \$600,000 gymnasium, which is to be constructed on the site facing on Essex road and lying between the girls' gym and the heating plant, was started during the Christmas holidays and is progressing rapidly.

The building, which is designed in order to be in architectural harmony with other buildings on the campus, will be T-shaped with the stem, which is 270 feet long, facing on Essex road and the 200 feet bar lying between the girls' gym and heating plant. It will be constructed of red brick and the front steps will extend the full width of the building at the Essex road end.

THREE CARS BURNED IN RONDOUT GARAGE

A garage at the Chas. Cross home, in Rondout, was destroyed by fire last week. In the building at the time were two auto trucks and a new Chevrolet coach, all of which were consumed, together with a miscellaneous assortment of tools, and other property. Charles (Micky) Cross, Jr., went to the garage to get his car to go to his work at Blodgett. He had lighted a bunsen burner, and this exploded, setting fire to a tank of fuel oil, stored in the garage. Young Cross was enveloped in flames from the explosion, and most of his clothing was burned. He sustained burns about the face and hands, but not of a serious nature.

GLENCOE RESIDENT DIES; FUNERAL HELD

John J. Moore Passes Away Last Week; Services on Friday Afternoon

The death of John J. Moore of 440 Sheridan road, Glencoe, occurred last week, following an operation which took place a week previously. Mr. Moore was active in church work, in the business world, and in many organizations in Chicago, at the time of his death. He was 64 years old, and is survived by his wife, one daughter, Eugene, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, at present a student in the National Kindergarten college in Evanston, and two sons, William, a student at New Trier, and James, a graduate of Beloit college. Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock, Friday January 14, at the residence.

A special cartoon class was started about three weeks ago at Waukegan high school. This class is under the leadership of an undergraduate.

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